

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 MC-02 IGA-02 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 /064 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN:CEJ
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
DOD/ISA/NESA:WFIFER
PM/SAS:JNOTARGIACOMO

-----040150Z 060704 /64

R 032238Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
CHUSMTM
CSA
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 000414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE COORDINATION

REFS: (A) SANA 4363, (B) JIDDA 8160

1. DEPT AND DOD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SANA'S THOUGHTFUL
ANALYSIS OF PROBLEMS ATTENDANT UPON US-SAUDI-YAR ARMS
SUPPLY COORDINATION.

2. FROM THE OUTSET OF THIS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL BUT POTENTIALLY
SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM IT HAS BEEN OUR INTENT TO STRESS ITS
REGIONAL COOPERATION ASPECTS. THOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THE
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NEED FOR THE US TO MONITOR THE PROGRAM CAREFULLY AND
CONTINUOUSLY, WE WISH TO DO SO IN A MANNER WHICH WILL NOT
DILUTE NASCENT SAUDI-YEMENI COOPERATION EFFORTS. FROM OUR
PERSPECTIVE IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT THE MAIN
BURDEN OF COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES CONTINUES TO BE CARRIED
BY THE YEMENIS AND THE SAUDIS. FORMAL US INVOLVEMENT IN
THE EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THOSE

AREAS WHERE OUR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS INDISPENSIBLE
(E.G., PROVISION OF QUALITY CONTROL TEAMS, ONE OF WHICH IS
DUE TO ARRIVE IN YAR SHORTLY TO CHECK ARRIVING MILITARY
TRUCKS) OR WHERE HIGH LEVEL INTERVENTION IS NECESSARY TO

CORRECT BOTTLENECKS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS (E.G., NON-
TRANSFER ASSURANCES ON 105 HOWITZERS WHICH IT IS OUR
ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN).

3. IN VIEW OF THESE GENERAL JUDGMENTS WE BELIEVE THE
FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SHOULD PROVIDE THE KIND OF US INVOLVE-
MENT BEST CALCULATED TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS OF ENHANCED
REGIONAL COOPERATION AND A SMOOTH-RUNNING PROGRAM.

(A) ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS WE EXPECT THAT EMBASSY SANA WILL
CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE SAUDI MISSION
AND OFFER FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL ADVICE. WE ANTICIPATE
THAT BECAUSE OF EMBASSY SANA'S EXCELLENT RAPPORT WITH THE
SAUDI MISSION, SUCH COUNSEL WOULD BE ACCEPTED IN GOOD
GRACE, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS OFFERED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR
IMPARTIAL OBSERVATION OF PROGRAM INADEQUACIES RATHER THAN
AS A RESULT OF YEMENI COMPLAINTS.

(B) OCCASIONS WILL INEVITABLY ARISE WHEN THE YEMENIS WILL
FEEL THAT A FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THEIR CONCERNS TO THE
SAUDIS IS IN ORDER. WE BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR PORTER
STRUCK THE RIGHT NOTE WHEN HE SUGGESTED (REFTEL B) YEMENIS
SHOULD CARRY THEIR PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO THE SAUDIS,
EITHER WITHIN THE COUNTRY OR IF NECESSARY TO MODA IN
RIYADH, AND THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO THIS END.

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(C) FINALLY, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A FEW INSTANCES WHEN
THE USE OF US GOOD OFFICES WILL BE NECESSARY VIA EMBASSY
JIDDA. WE ARE RELUCTANT, HOWEVER, TO APPROVE ANY DEMARCHE
IN JIDDA UNTIL EMBASSY SANA HAS REACHED THE LIMITS OF
WHAT IT CAN ACHIEVE VIA INFORMAL PERSUASIVENESS IN THE YAR
AND UNTIL YAR ITSELF HAS MADE CLEAR AND FORCEFUL PRE-
SENTATION TO THE SAUDIS.

4. THIS IS A JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE.
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY LOGISTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE000414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JRCOUNTRYMAN:CEJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770002-0730
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770184/aaaacvpa.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5ed7e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SANA 4363, 77 JIDDA 8160
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3671379
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE COORDINATION
TAGS: MASS, YE, SA
To: SANA JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5ed7e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009